Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A surface treated absorbent material comprising a superabsorbent material consisting essentially of a superabsorbent polymer consisting of

a) at least about 75% by weight of the superabsorbent polymer of an anionic polymer comprising functional groups selected from carboxyl groups, sulfonate groups, sulphate groups, sulfite groups, and phosphate groups; and

b) an internal crosslinking agent based on the polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a degree of neutralization of greater than about 25%; wherein elements a) and b) are polymerized and prepared into superabsorbent polymer particles and further comprising the following surface additives to form surface treated superabsorbent polymer particles

i) from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of surface crosslinking agent based on the superabsorbent polymer composition; and

ii) from about 0.63% to about 5% by weight of a non-cross linked cationic polymeric coating based on the superabsorbent polymer composition; wherein the superabsorbent material having a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.8.

14. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a gel bed permeability (GBP) under load as determined by a Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about $200x10^{-9}cm^2$.

15. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 14 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a gel bed permeability (GBP) under load as determined by the Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about $400x10^{-9}cm^2$.

16. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the superabsorbent material has a centrifuge retention capacity (CRC) as determined by a Centrifuge Retention Capacity Test of at least about 20 g/g.

17. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the superabsorbent material has a centrifuge retention capacity (CRC) as determined by a Centrifuge Retention Capacity Test of at least about 25 g/g.

18. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the cationic polymer is polyvinyl amine.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the superabsorbent material has a gel stiffness index of at least about 0.85.

21. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the surface treatment is applied to substantially the entire outer surface of the superabsorbent

material.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the surface treatment further comprises in the range of about 0.5 to about 5 grams weight of water per 1 gram weight of superabsorbent material.

24. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 13 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a free swell gel bed permeability as determined by a Free Swell Gel Bed Permeability Test of at least about $2{,}000 \times 10^{-9} cm^2$.

25. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 24 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a gel bed permeability (GBP) under load as determined by a Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about $200 \times 10^{-9} cm^2$.

Claims 26-28 (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method of making a surface treated absorbent material[[,]] comprising a superabsorbent material consisting essentially of a superabsorbent polymer consisting of

a) at least about 75% by weight of the superabsorbent polymer of an anionic polymer comprising functional groups selected from carboxyl groups, sulfonate groups, sulphate groups, sulfite groups, and phosphate groups; and

b) an internal crosslinking agent based on the polymerizable unsaturated acid group containing monomer, wherein the superabsorbent polymer has a degree of neutralization of greater than about 25%; wherein elements a) and b) are polymerized and prepared into superabsorbent polymer particles and further comprising the following surface additives to form surface treated superabsorbent polymer particles

i) from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of surface crosslinking agent based on the superabsorbent polymer composition; and

ii) from about 0.63% to about 5% by weight of a non-cross linked cationic polymeric coating based on the superabsorbent polymer composition; wherein said method comprising: solubilizing a water soluble cationic polymer in water to form an aqueous solution; and applying the aqueous solution to the outer surface of a superabsorbent material having a gel stiffness of at least about 0.8 and comprising a cross-linked polymer comprising at least about 75 weight percent anionic polymer.

30. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 29 further comprising removing water from the aqueous solution following application of the solution to the superabsorbent material to thereby leave cationic polymer on the surface of the superabsorbent material.

31. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein the concentration of cationic

polymer is in the range of about 0.05 to about 10 weight percent of the superabsorbent material.

32. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein the solubilizing step comprises solubilizing the cationic polymer in at least about 0.5 to at least about 10 grams weight of water per 1 gram weight of superabsorbent material.

33. (Original) A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein the step of applying the aqueous solution to the outer surface of the superabsorbent material comprises mixing the aqueous solution and superabsorbent material together until the superabsorbent material has absorbed at least a portion of the aqueous solution.

Claims 34-39 (Cancelled)

40. (Original) A surface treated absorbent material as set forth in claim 14 wherein the surface treated absorbent material has a gel bed permeability (GBP) under load as determined by the Gel Bed Permeability Under Load Test of at least about 300 $x10^{-9}cm^2$.